

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 - Cancelled.

26. (New) An engine cylinder piston and connecting rod assembly comprising:

a piston;

a connecting rod;

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a piston pin constructed and arranged for connecting together said piston and said connecting rod, said piston pin being subjected to a load during reciprocation of said connecting rod, resulting in piston pin deflection; and

wherein said connecting rod having a first portion assembled into said piston and defining a bore for receipt of said piston pin, said connecting rod having a first end and an opposite second end, said bore extending between said first end and said second end, said connecting rod including as part of said bore a first profiled bore section adjacent said first end and a second profiled bore section adjacent said second end, each of said first and second profiled bore sections being constructed and arranged with a size, shape, and location so as to approximate the deflection shape of said piston pin under load.

27. (New) The engine cylinder piston and connecting rod assembly of claim 26 wherein said first profiled bore section and said second profiled bore section each have a curved surface.

28. (New) The engine cylinder piston and connecting rod assembly of claim 27 wherein a surface coating is applied to said bore.

29. (New) The engine cylinder piston and connecting rod assembly of claim 26 wherein said first profiled bore section and said second profiled bore section are each shaped with a plurality of end-to-end frustoconical sections.

30. (New) The engine cylinder piston and connecting rod assembly of claim 29 wherein a surface coating is applied to said bore.

31. (New) A connecting rod for use in an engine cylinder piston and connecting rod assembly including a piston pin for connecting together said piston and said connecting rod, said piston pin being subjected to a load during reciprocation of said connecting rod, resulting in piston pin deflection, said connecting rod comprising:

a main body portion defining a bore for receipt of a piston pin, said main body portion having a first end and opposite thereto a second end, said bore extending between said first end and said second end;

a first profiled bore section adjacent said first end, said first profiled bore section being defined by said main body portion and comprising a portion of said bore; and

a second profiled bore section adjacent said second end, said second profiled bore section being defined by said main body portion and comprising a portion of said bore, wherein each of said first and second profiled bore sections being constructed and arranged with a size, shape, and location so as to approximate the deflection shape of said piston pin under load.

32. (New) The connecting rod of claim 31 wherein said first profiled bore section and said second profiled bore section each have a curved surface.

33. (New) The connecting rod of claim 32 wherein a surface coating is applied to said bore.

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34. (New) The connecting rod of claim 31 wherein said first profiled bore section and said second profiled bore section are each shaped with a plurality of end-to-end frustoconical sections.

35. (New) The connecting rod of claim 34 wherein a surface coating is applied to said bore.

